



# NEWS RELEASE

Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office

1220 Eisenhower Place, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-3281

734.623.2000 • [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)

## DUCKS UNLIMITED RECOGNIZES WISCONSIN USFWS BIOLOGIST, DEDICATED CONSERVATIONIST

### Jim Lutes honored as Wisconsin Partner of the Year

**WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis., February 11, 2011** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Biologist Jim Lutes was recently recognized as Ducks Unlimited's Wisconsin Conservation Partner of the Year. Lutes received his award at the 2011 Wisconsin Ducks Unlimited convention, which took place in the Wisconsin Dells. Partners are key to DU's conservation efforts, and DU works with these partners—individuals, organizations and state and federal agencies—that allow current projects to move forward and foster the initiation of new ones.

Lutes' commitment to waterfowl habitat conservation is unprecedented. In 2010, he took a lead role in coordinating and implementing the Harvey's Marsh and Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area projects, ensuring that DU was a partner in both of them. DU is pleased to recognize Lutes for his efforts as a member of the staff of the USFWS – Leopold Wetland Management District, as well as for his personal commitment to conserving Wisconsin's natural resources.

After graduating from the University of Montana with a major in Wildlife Biology, Lutes worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in Bismarck, N.D.. He then joined the USFWS, originally at Horicon



*Lutes receives DU Wisconsin Partner of the Year award at the Wisconsin Convention. From left to right: Jason Hill – DU Regional Biologist, Nels Swenson – DU State Chairman, Jim Lutes-USFWS Wildlife Biologist, and Dale Hall-DU CEO.*

National Wildlife Refuge, but today Lutes can be found helping conserve habitat throughout the Leopold Wetland Management District. He is responsible for biological surveys, wetland and grassland habitat restoration projects and management activities, invasive species control, implementation of threatened and endangered species recovery actions, as well as work with federal, state and other partners such as DU to manage more than 12,900 acres on 54 Waterfowl Production Areas scattered throughout 17 counties of southeastern Wisconsin. Lutes is also working to expand oak savanna restoration projects and utilization of forest and grassland biomass as alternative fuel sources.

DU Regional Biologist Jason Hill recognized Lutes' efforts as a valued partner to DU and acknowledged his commitment to wetland and waterfowl conservation. Lutes received his Partner of the Year award at DU's Wisconsin state convention, held at the Wisconsin Dells on Jan. 29.

Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 12 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

**-30-**

**Kristin Schrader**

**734.623.2000**

**[kschrader@ducks.org](mailto:kschrader@ducks.org)**